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MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
April 28, 1998

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, April 28, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Mike Librik, Dewayne Naumann, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Rocky Medrano, Vice-Chair, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Jay Stone, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Ray Lopez, Mary Ybarbo.

CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 24, 1998, were approved with the following correction: Mr. Francell stated the Board should be open to looking at all options that benefit parkland and park users during a discussion on item #E-8 Approve a Resolution Reaffirming the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan and Discouraging Commercial Development of Dedicated Parkland.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Jim von Wolske, President of Lakeshore Drive Neighborhood Association, approached the board and asked that they consider sending a resolution to the City Council reaffirming the Board's jurisdiction over Lake Austin Construction Projects.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Certificate of Appreciation to Eagle Scout Andy Howard

Rosemary Castleberry presented Andy Howard a certificate of appreciation from the Parks Board for his outstanding contribution to the people of Austin for his work on his Eagle Scout project at the Loop 360 Boat Ramp. Dewayne Naumann informed the board he had personally witnessed the development of this project and thanked the scout for his work.

Proposed PARD Boards and Commission Guidelines

Ray Lopez, Division Manager of Programs, informed the board his committee members include Jack Anderson, Division Manager of Cultural Affairs, Gloria Mata Pennington, Senior Programs Manager, Danny Castro, Program Supervisor at Dittmar Recreation Center, Janet Martin, Program Manager for the Roving Leader Program and Bill Wells, Program Supervisor at Northwest Recreation Center. Advisory associations are groups of interested citizens who have volunteered to support specific facilities and programs of the Parks and Recreation Department. As volunteer groups, the role of these associations is to provide advice and support for the Department's programs and facilities. The purpose is to establish guidelines that maintain minimum operating standards for advisory

boards and associations. Mr. Lopez hopes to complete these guidelines before the end of this year.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Set a Public Hearing Date to Receive Public Comment on the Lone Star River Boat Concession and the Texas Rowing Concession.

Jay Stone, Financial Analyst, asked the board to also consider adding public hearing comments for the Hill Country Vending Concession along with the two already listed. The three concessions come up for renewal at the same time. Mr. Stone suggested the hearing be held on May 12, 1998. Dewayne Naumann moved that May 12, 1998, be set as the date for the public hearings. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Librik, Naumann, Carter, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

PUBLIC HEARING

Receive Public Comment on the Hill Country Aeromodelers Use of Mary Moore Searight Park

Barbara Somota, 8603 Swanson Lane resident, asked that her comments be read into the minutes. "The model airplanes are very noisy 2 miles from their site. Planes are flown during the weekends and throughout the week. The planes are so loud I can hear them thru the walls of a house that is closed."

Robert Thomas Courtney, Jr., 6202 Blarwood Drive, member of the Hill Country Aeromodelers (HCA), stated that three generations of his family are flyers and asked that the agreement be renewed.

Casey Dodson, 6701 Ridge Oak Road, member of HCA, stated she enjoys flying with her father and spoke in favor of HCA.

William D. Mol, 3601 Piute Trail, President of Hill Country Aeromodelers, asked the board to renew the agreement to maintain and operate the radio controlled model airplane field at Mary Moore Searight Park.

A request was made by HCA members to show a 10-minute video of the club's activity. Rocky Medrano, Vice-Chair, moved to give reasonable time to show the video. The video was shown to board members.

Andrew Hofmann, 751-A Simonett Drive, HCA club member, stated his house was less than 100 yards from the park and he is in favor of renewing the agreement.

Oscar McNabb, 210 Stassney, HCA member, spoke in favor of continual use of a portion of Mary Moore Searight Park for radio controlled model aviation. Mr. McNabb's words were interpreted by a signer.

Daryl Voges, 3301 Graybuck, HCA member, asked the board to grant continued use of the existing airfield area for a reasonable period of time (5 years). He is willing to share this sport with others.

Rick Schafer, 7501 Ladle, self-employed hobby shop owner, informed the board of the educational aspects of the HCA.

Dick Demel, 807 Brazos #810, President of Texas Oak South Phase III Neighborhood Association, acknowledged the Hill Country Aeromodelers were a good group of people, he spoke against renewal of the agreement in Mary Moore Searight Park.

John Soule, 5804 Timber Tr., spoke in favor of renewing the agreement.

Jim and Vida Witcher, 730 Shadetree Drive, asked if he could also use his wife's time to express his thoughts against renewing the agreement. Mr. Witcher acknowledged that the Hill Country Aeromodelers were a good group of people but he feels this hobby is an inconsistent use of a park. He does not favor public land being used for private use. He asked that the vote be postponed.

John Duran, 10430 Hess Drive, is a home owner near the park and is opposed to renewing the agreement and asked if the lease could be signed for another park.

Rudy Garza, 9102 Dorella Lane, a 3 year member of the HCA club, who informed the board the club is a good service to the community and asked that the agreement be renewed.

Linda Brodbeck, 8107 Red Willow Drive, HCA member, who informed the board that besides the 150 club members there are other people who benefit from this club and urged renewal of the agreement.

Bill Brodbeck, 8107 Red Willow Drive, HCA member, who asked board to renew the agreement.

Howard Papke, 1013 Slaughter Lane, has a model airplane and urged the board to support the present location of the air strip.

Brian Kalstad, 700 Dulwich Street, lives 3/4 of a mile from the park and the concerts at Southpark Meadows and traffic on Slaughter are noisier. He asked that the lease be kept at Mary Moore Searight Park.

Sarah Foster, 702 Barton Blvd., member of Hill Country Aeromodelers along with her son. She lives in the Zilker area where there is always noise and favors renewing the lease at Mary Moore Searight Park.

Jim Rodgers, 4905 White Elm Drive, a former PARD employee, informed the board he always enjoyed working with the aeromodelers club members because of their cooperative attitude.

John Keto, 1808 Basin Ledge, informed the board he worked on noise levels with neighborhood groups and worked to get better mufflers for the planes. He supports keeping the agreement at the park.

John Seitz, 7909 Finch Trail, HCA Treasurer informed the board that membership was \$5/month with an initial fee of \$10, \$90/year family fee and \$30 junior fee. He asked the board to extend the lease.

Robert Thomas Courtney III, 6202 Blarwood, member of HCA, will attend University of Texas next year to study aeronautics. He asked that the lease be renewed.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:10 p.m.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to the Director on the Hill Country Aeromodelers Use of Mary Moore Searight Park

Dewayne Naumann made a recommendation to direct the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into a renewal contract with the Hill Country Aeromodelers for use at Mary Moore Searight Park. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote in favor was 6-0-1 (Naumann, Carter, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres) (Librik)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Each member was given an updated copy of the PARD Resource Manual and a copy of the Summer Youth Employment booklet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee will meet Monday, May 4th at noon.
Land & Facilities Committee will soon review the special Event Policy.
Navigation Committee will review again the plans of the Lake Austin Marina presently under construction.
Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Advisory Group will hold a public forum on April 29th at 6:30 p.m.
Downtown Commission presently discussing the homeless issue/shelter.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

It was requested that on the next board agenda there be presentations/updates on the Skateboard Park, Summer Lunch Food Program, Pease Park traffic control, Cleaning of Barton Springs Pool, Volunteer Bike Program, Destination Parks, and Norwood House.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.